

# Welcome to the University of Michigan's Residential Community

It is often said that some of the most important learning by students during their college years takes place outside of the classroom. A lot of that learning occurs during the interactions and exchanges that take place among residents in a residence hall.

In our residence halls, you will find many people with interests similar to your own. You will also find people who are more different from you than you may have expected. The diversity of appearances, beliefs and expectations is astounding, wonderful and sometimes intimidating. University Housing strives to create an environment in which positive relationships with all these people, similar and dissimilar, can thrive. The aspirations of University Housing staff to create an atmosphere of mutual respect and understanding, where a student's rights to a safe, clean, comfortable home are respected, are stated in the Living at Michigan Credo and the Resident Bill of Rights. We hope you will adopt the principles of these two documents as your own and use them to help make your experience in the halls positive, educational and enjoyable.

## Legal Information

Your contract is the basic document that states the contractual obligations between you and the University. This electronic document, Community Living at Michigan, is a legally binding adjunct which is incorporated into your contract. You are equally responsible for complying with the rules, policies and regulations contained herein as you are for those directly printed on the contract.

The [Martha Cook Building](#), [Henderson House](#) and the [Lawyers Club](#) have some unique contractual terms and conditions that differ from the standard residence hall contract. It is the responsibility of the residents of these buildings to become informed of these unique terms and conditions. Residents of the three buildings will receive specific information about these contractual differences at the time of contract signing.

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***Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of information contained in this electronic document. Updates and corrections will be made as they become necessary. Students will be notified of substantive changes and such changes will also be posted on the University Housing Web site.***  
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## University Housing's Mission

The mission of University Housing is to create and sustain diverse learning-centered residential communities that further the goals of the University. Through partnership with others we provide quality programs, services, and facilities for those we serve in a caring, responsible, and cost effective manner.

## Living at Michigan Credo

The University of Michigan is a special place. It is an educational community designed to foster freedom of thought and unconventional, even uncomfortable, opinions. It attempts to provide an environment conducive to inquiry, in which innovation and creativity are nurtured. Part of this openness to ideas is an acceptance and appreciation of diverse cultures from around the country and around the world—an allowance not only for people to be different, but a recognition that such diversity is the vital core of University life. University Housing is committed to an inclusive,

sensitive, socially just and humane community in our residence halls and apartments. Many students use their college years to explore and develop their personal identity and values. We believe this exploration can best take place in an environment that is open to and respectful of individuals across the spectrum of human differences and distinctions. It is the responsibility of every member of the Housing community, staff and students alike, to work to create and maintain such an environment. We pledge to work collectively to examine our values and conduct, and to question those values when they reflect an origin of fear, anger, or ignorance. Acts of bigotry are acts of hatred against us all, and they will not be condoned or tolerated. We must all share in the responsibility of confronting unacceptable behavior, and in providing an example of involved citizenship. We continue to strive towards fulfilling our ideals. Join us in this affirmation of our common humanity.

## Statement on Nondiscrimination

University Housing supports and follows University guidelines with respect to nondiscrimination and fair treatment in employment, educational programs, activities, policy enforcement, and residence hall and apartment assignments. Members of the University community who have concerns or complaints about University Housing in these areas, or questions about the information in this electronic document, should contact the Associate Director, Residence Education, 1500 Student Activities Building, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1316 or (734) 763-1452.

## Resident Bill of Rights

University Housing is proud of the positive environment for living and learning in our residential communities, where residents treat one another with respect and in good faith, and appreciate the value of conducting themselves in a responsible manner. In the interest of promoting this positive environment, the Housing community has developed the *Resident Bill of Rights* (next) and the *Community Living Standards* (under [Building a Community through Individual Responsibility](#)). The Resident Bill of Rights, like the Living at Michigan Credo, represents aspirations of University Housing for its communities, but it is not a guarantee. We expect all members of the community to strive to make these aspirations a reality by supporting these rights for themselves and for their fellow community members.

### *Resident Bill of Rights*

*As a member of the residential community, each resident has the right to:*

Read and study free from undue interference in one's room. Unreasonable noise and other distractions inhibit the exercise of this right;

Sleep without undue disturbance from noise, roommates' guests, or other distractions;

Expect that a roommate will respect one's personal belongings;

A clean, sanitary, and orderly environment in which to live;

Free access to one's room and facilities without pressure from a roommate;

Personal privacy;

Host a guest with the expectation that guests are to respect the rights of the host's roommate and other residents;

Redress of grievances, and participation in conflict resolution. Residence hall staff members are available for assistance in this process;